

Livestock Exhibit Best Practices Checklist

These best practices are based on the Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2017, which can be found at:

https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/Animal_Health/Fairs/AnimalContactCompendium2017.pdf.

If you are a livestock or poultry exhibit manager, please use this checklist as a tool to help design and operate your facility in a manner that is safe for both the animals and visitors.

Facility Design

- Handwashing stations
 - Running water
 - Accessible for children and persons with disabilities
 - Plan in place for restocking paper towels, soap, and water
- Hand sanitizer (Hand sanitizer should be used as a supplement to soap and water and does not replace soap and water for handwashing)
 - Plan in place for restocking sanitizer
- Petting of animals only allowed over/through barriers (fences); visitors not allowed into pens
- No physical contact by the public with chicks, ducklings, reptiles, calves, or dangerous and exotic animals (e.g., primates, wolf pups)
- No transport of manure/soiled bedding through public areas
- Transition area at entrance between non-animal and animal areas
 - Stroller and bag storage
- Transition area at exit as people leave animal space to non-animal space
 - Hand washing stations positioned near exit

Visitor Education

- Educational messages in multiple formats (e.g., signs, videos, recorded messages, stickers, bracelets, interaction of staff and visitors) Signage at entrances and exits
 - No food or drink allowed in animal areas
 - No hand-to-mouth activities in the animal area (drinking, eating, bottles, pacifiers)
 - Children under 5-years old, senior citizens, pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions or a weakened immune system should be extra careful around animals



- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water immediately after visiting the animals
- Staff members present to encourage safe animal contact
- Remind visitors to refrain from risky activities in the animal area (drinking, eating, bottles, pacifiers)
- Remind visitors to wash their hands after visiting the animal area
- Remind parents to supervise children with the animals

Staff Education

- Review best practices and recommendations from the Compendium (mentioned in the directions) on an annual basis
 - Educate staff about the risk for disease and injury associated with animals
 - Educate staff on how diseases are transmitted from animals to people
 - Educate staff on prevention messages that should be shared with visitors
- Ensure staff feel comfortable explaining these concepts to visitors
- Explain staff members' role(s) in the petting zoo
 - Teach people about animals
 - Teach people how to enjoy animals safely by following these best practices

Animal Care and Management

- Sick or injured animal(s) immediately removed, especially if they have diarrhea/scours
- Manure/soiled bedding removed promptly
 - Limit visitor contact with manure/soiled bedding by restricting access (e.g., use of double barriers, sweeping up walkways, use of solid bottom fencing)
- Surfaces, especially pen railings, cleaned daily using soap and water
- Animals housed in a way that minimizes stress and overcrowding (this will decrease the amount of pathogen shedding in their feces)
- Feed provided in containers that won't be confused as human food (e.g., do not use ice cream cones)

For further questions, please contact:

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